

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1578
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
SOLAR POWERED PHONES
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to provide solar-powered phones in some villages of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such proposals for other States are also under the consideration of the government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The basis telephone service providers in Andhra Pradesh, have reported to have provided 11203 numbers of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) using solar power.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has plans to provide solar powered Village Public Telephones in the uncovered villages of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Orissa.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.